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2nd Annual

Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit

Translating Novel & Transformational Analgesics into the Clinic

January 26-28, 2027 | Boston, MA



Showcasing the Latest Data & Biopharma Leaders, Discovering Novel Mechanisms of Action Beyond NaV & Navigating the Placebo Effect in Clinical Trial Design for the Huge Unmet Need

Your 30+ Expert Speakers Include:



Bryan Moyer
Senior Vice President, Discovery
Latigo Biotherapeutics



Cindy Steinberg
Director, Policy & Advocacy
US Pain Foundation



Darrell Henze
Executive Director
Merck & Co.



Erica Bial
Medical Director, Clinical Development Pain
Vertex Pharmaceuticals



Florian Jakob
Head of Drug Discovery Engine
Grünenthal



John Markman
Vice President, Global Pain
Eli Lilly



Kavya Gopal
Senior Vice President & Disease Area Executive for Pain
Vertex Pharmaceuticals



Peter Borden
Director, Search & Evaluation
AbbVie



Roman Camarda
Principal
Novo Holdings



Ted Price
Professor, Director Center for Advanced Pain Studies
UT Dallas

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Where Novel Biology, Clinical Innovation & Investment Collide to Transform Pain Treatment

The approval of Vertex Pharmaceuticals' first-in-class NaV1.8 inhibitor, **JOURNAVX®, has given the pain field something it has been seeking for decades: proof that innovative, non-opioid pain therapeutics can reach patients** and create meaningful commercial opportunity. Yet rather than settling the field, this milestone has reignited debate around which mechanisms, modalities and development strategies will define the next wave of pain innovation.

Bringing together leaders across discovery biology, translational science, clinical development, business development and venture investment, the **2nd Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit** provides the forum to answer these questions. Join experts from **Vertex Pharmaceuticals**, **Eli Lilly**, **AbbVie**, **Grünenthal**, **Xenon Pharmaceuticals**, **Levicept**, **Tonix Medicines**, **4E Therapeutics**, **Maxona Pharmaceuticals**, and leading investment groups as they determine which mechanisms, biomarkers and development strategies will shape the future of pain therapeutics. I look forward to welcoming you in Boston.



Sophie Evans
Senior Program Director
Hanson Wade Group

What's New for 2027?

Dedicated Two-Track Pre-Conference Workshop Day for Cross-Functional Pain Teams Tailored to Your Role

Track 1: Discovery & Preclinical	Track 2: Clinical & Regulatory
• Bruce Bean	• Erica Bial (Vertex)
• Cliff Woolf	• Luana Colloca
• Michael Oshinsky (NIH)	• Emilio Quetglas (Tris Pharma)
• Ted Price (UT Dallas)	• James Campbell (Centrexion)

Expanded Investment Insights: Pharma BD & VC Panel

Explore the Catalysts Driving Deal-Making Momentum in Pain & Discover What Investors are Seeking from the Next Wave of Readouts

abbvie · Aquilo PARTNERS · BGV. · BSQUARED CAPITAL · Lilly · novo holdings

25+ New Speakers & 20+ New Presenting Companies Including:

CENTREXION THERAPEUTICS · GRÜNENTHAL · MAXONA PHARMACEUTICALS · Navega Therapeutics · NIH National Institutes of Health · SIMR 上海赛默罗生物科技有限公司 · Xenon

New Poster Competition Announced!:
Compete for a 30 minute Slot to Speak in 2028 (*more details on page 9*)

Unmissable Highlights

Where Is Investment Flowing in Pain? Pharma BD, Venture Capital & Deal-Making Priorities

Following headline transactions including **Eli Lilly's** $1B **SiteOne Therapeutics** acquisition, $285M **4E Therapeutics** acquisition and **AbbVie's** $335M **Haisco** pain licensing deal, what does it take for a pain asset to attract serious investor and pharma interest? Join leading BD and venture experts to uncover the targets, technologies and clinical data packages attracting capital, shaping partnership activity and defining the next generation of non-opioid pain therapeutics with **Eli Lilly**, **AbbVie**, **Aquilo**, **BGV Ventures**, **Novo Holdings** and **Bsquared Capital**.

Refining Sodium Channel Biology: Advancing the Next Generation of NaV1.8, NaV1.7 Therapies

Explore the opportunities and limitations of sodium channel modulation following the first NaV1.8 approval, and assess how developers are differentiating next-generation approaches through improved pharmacology, selectivity, target engagement and patient selection with **Vertex Pharmaceuticals**, **Xenon Pharmaceuticals**, **Grünenthal**, **TONIX Pharma** and more.

Beyond NaV: Expanding the Non-Opioid Pain Toolbox Through Novel Mechanisms

Discover emerging therapeutic approaches spanning potassium channels, GABA receptors, neurotrophin biology, GLP-1 signalling, monoamine reuptake inhibition and other novel pathways that could reshape the treatment of acute, chronic and neuropathic pain. Learn from innovators at **Levicept**, **Xenon Pharmaceuticals**, **Eli Lilly**, **Shanghai SIMR Biotechnology** and **Maxona Pharmaceuticals**.

Can We Finally Get Pain Trials Right? Overcoming Placebo Response & Learning from Failure

Examine how leading developers are improving signal detection through better patient selection, endpoint strategy, crossover designs, placebo mitigation techniques and biomarker integration, while re-evaluating whether failed programmes reflect flawed targets or flawed trials. Featuring experts from **Vertex Pharmaceuticals**, **Tonix Pharma**, **Centrexion**, **Tris Pharma**, the **University of Maryland** and **US Pain Foundation** leaders.

Matching Mechanism to Biology: Building More Predictive Discovery & Translational Strategies

Explore how human-relevant models, sensory neuron biology, translational biomarkers, experimental pain models and emerging target discovery approaches are helping developers better understand pain heterogeneity and align mechanisms with the patients most likely to benefit. Featuring thought leaders from the **NIH**, **University of Texas**, **4E Therapeutics**, **Boston Children's Hospital** and **Harvard Medical School**.

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2027 Speaker Faculty

2nd Annual Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit

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Pharma Leaders Driving the Future of Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics



Darrell Henze
Executive Director
Merck & Co.



Erica Bial
Medical Director, Clinical Development Pain
Vertex Pharmaceuticals



Florian Jakob
Head of Drug Discovery Engine
Grünenthal



John Markman
Vice President, Global Pain
Eli Lilly



Kavya Gopal
Senior Vice President & Disease Area Executive for Pain
Vertex Pharmaceuticals



Paul Negulescu
Senior Vice President, Disease Area
Vertex Pharmaceuticals



Peter Borden
Director, Search & Evaluation
AbbVie



Stephen Zicha
Senior Director, Neuroscience
Eli Lilly



William Housley
Head of Rheumatology Early Discovery (Immunology R&D)
AbbVie

> I think that interaction between academia, small startups, and Pharma is critical for advancing development of next generation treatments for pain and these small, highly focused meetings between leaders in these 3 areas are a key way to make that happen. That is why I have come in the past to this conference series, and why I am a speaker and attendee for this meeting.
>
> Ted Price, Professor, Director Center for Advanced Pain Studies, **UT Dallas**

Biotech Innovators Advancing the Next Generation of Pain Medicines



Ana Moreno
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Navega Therapeutics



Bryan Moyer
Senior Vice President, Discovery
Latigo Biotherapeutics



Chris Kenney
Chief Medical Officer
Xenon Pharmaceuticals



Emilio Quetglas
Senior Director, Medical & Clinical Development
Tris Pharma



Errol Gould
Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs
Tonix Medicines



James Campbell
President & Chief Scientific Officer
Centrexion



James Gilligan
President & Chief Scientific Officer
Entropy Neurodynamics (formerly Tryp Therapeutics)



Shawn Fatholahi
President & Chief Executive Officer
MAXONA Pharmaceuticals



Shuai Li
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Shanghai SIMR Biotechnology



Sigal Meilin
Chief Scientific Officer
MD Biosciences



Simon Westbrook
Founder & Chief Scientific Officer
Levicept



Ted Price
Professor, Director Center for Advanced Pain Studies
UT Dallas

Investors & Strategic Leaders Shaping the Future of Pain Innovation



Jana Obajdin
Analyst
Biogeneration Ventures



John Dyer
Managing Director
Aquilo



Roman Camarda
Principal
Novo Holdings



Vincent Nadeau
Principal
BSquared Capital

2027 Speaker Faculty

2nd Annual Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit

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Academic & Patient Advocacy Leaders Advancing Pain Biology & Clinical Translation



Bruce Bean
Professor
Harvard



Cindy Steinberg
Director, Policy & Advocacy
US Pain Foundation



Cliff Woolf
Director, FM Kirby Neurobiology Centre
Boston Children's Hospital



Luana Colloca
Interim Chair, Pain & Translational Symptom Science
University of Maryland



Michael Oshinsky
Director, Preclinical Pain Research
NIH

"This a top pain conference to learn about progress in non-opioid analgesic R&D, discuss with industry and academic expert in pain drug development and problem solve key R&D hurdles to advance the field of next-generation analgesics. The conference is small for good networking, and the topics are highly relevant to drug developers. An important event for anyone in pain R&D."

Vincent Nadeau, Principal, **BSquared Capital**

"Pain is arguably the most universal affliction experienced by humans. Finding effective, non-addictive solutions for pain is one of the greatest challenges the biomedical community faces. Attending this conference is an exceptional way to learn about cutting-edge developments in the space"

Roman Camarda, Principal, **Novo Holdings**

"As an investor, this conference is a valuable opportunity to understand the latest developments in non-opioid therapeutics and hear perspectives from researchers, clinicians and companies in the field. It also provides an excellent setting to connect with experts and emerging companies and potentially identify investment opportunities."

Jana Obajdin, Analyst, **BGV Ventures**

Pre-Conference Day
Tuesday, January 26

2nd Annual Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit

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The Pre-Conference Workshop Day provides a rare platform to break away from the main conference in smaller discussion groups on key pain topics limiting the field. Expect a mixed format of case studies, expert-led discussion, audience debate and collaborative problem-solving.

But beyond this, why should you attend the workshop day?:

Learn from experts through in-depth discussions, case studies and real-world development experiences

Explore topics in greater depth than is possible within a 30-minute conference presentation or panel

Share best practices and benchmark approaches with peers across discovery, translational and clinical development

Display thought leadership by contributing perspectives, experiences and solutions to shared industry challenges

Kickstart networking and build meaningful connections in a smaller, highly interactive setting

8:00 **Check-In, Coffee & Light Breakfast**

Track 1: Discovery & Preclinical

Designed for discovery scientists, pharmacologists, translational researchers, medicinal chemists, biomarker specialists and preclinical R&D leaders focused on identifying, validating and advancing novel non-opioid pain mechanisms from target discovery through IND-enabling studies.

Track 2: Translational & Clinical

Designed for translational medicine experts, clinical scientists, clinical development leaders, physician-scientists, medical directors and regulatory specialists focused on improving clinical trial design, establishing proof-of-mechanism, reducing translational risk and advancing pain therapies through the clinic.

Workshop A

9:00 Translating Human Pain Biology Beyond Animal Models into Predictive Drug Development

This workshop will explore how human-relevant models can improve translation from preclinical discovery to clinical success by generating more predictive evidence earlier in development. Attendees will discuss how complementary in vitro, ex vivo, computational and experimental human approaches can strengthen decision-making and reduce reliance on less predictive models.

Key Questions Addressed:

- How can human iPSC-derived sensory neurons, primary human DRG and other scalable platforms improve translational relevance and enable more predictive screening?
- What can we learn from integrated model systems, from human cell-based assays through to animal validation, to better understand pain mechanisms and therapeutic requirements?
- How are New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), including 3D tissue models and computational tools, gaining acceptance and being incorporated into pain drug development?
- How can developers combine human-relevant models to strengthen go/no-go decisions, identify liabilities earlier and improve confidence before entering the clinic?



Michael Oshinsky, Director, Office of Preclinical Pain Research, **NIH**



Ted Price, Professor, Director Center for Advanced Pain Studies, **UT Dallas**

Workshop B

9:00 Optimizing Clinical Trial Design to Detect Efficacy & Mitigate High Placebo Response in Chronic Pain

This workshop will explore practical strategies to improve assay sensitivity in pain trials by reducing placebo response, refining patient selection and optimizing endpoint design. Attendees will discuss how study design choices can strengthen efficacy signals, improve regulatory confidence and increase the likelihood of clinical success across diverse pain populations.

Key Topics Covered:

- How can patient selection criteria, trial design and site execution be optimized to reduce placebo response and improve signal detection in chronic pain studies?
- What role do biomarkers, patient-reported outcomes and clinically meaningful endpoints play in distinguishing true treatment effects from placebo-driven responses?
- How should crossover, parallel-group and other trial designs be applied across acute, chronic and paediatric pain indications to maximize sensitivity and relevance?
- What evolving regulatory approaches, including historical controls and single pivotal trial pathways, could streamline development while maintaining robust efficacy and safety standards?



Erica Bial, Medical Director, Clinical Development, **Vertex Pharmaceuticals**



Luana Colloca, Interim Chair, Pain & Translational Symptom Science, **University of Maryland**

12:00 **Lunch**

Pre-Conference Day
Tuesday, January 26

Workshop C

1:00 Discovering & Validating Novel Targets to Drug Ready Mechanisms for Non-Opioid Pain

As the field looks beyond sodium channel blockers and established approaches, identifying the next generation of clinically meaningful pain targets remains a critical challenge. This workshop will explore emerging pain biology, novel therapeutic mechanisms and modern target discovery approaches, with a focus on translating biological insights into validated, drug-ready opportunities.

Key Topics Covered:

- How can human genetics, multi-omics datasets and AI-enabled approaches uncover novel pain mechanisms and identify high-priority therapeutic targets?
- What can emerging insights into neuroinflammation, central sensitization, neuronal plasticity and neuroimmune interactions reveal about the drivers of chronic pain?
- Which novel target classes, including neuroimmune pathways, microglial signalling, adenosine receptors, NOX pathways, ATTR-related mechanisms and GLP-1 signalling, show the greatest therapeutic potential?
- How can developers distinguish compelling biology from truly druggable opportunities by assessing causality, tractability, target engagement and translational confidence?



Clifford Woolf, Director, FM Kirby Neurobiology Centre, **Boston Children's Hospital**



Bruce Bean, Professor, Neurobiology, **Harvard Medical School**

Workshop D

1:00 Target Failure or Trial Failure? Re-Evaluating Why Pain Programs Fail

When pain programs fail, it can be difficult to determine whether the underlying biology was flawed or whether efficacy signals were obscured by trial design, patient heterogeneity or inappropriate endpoint selection. This workshop will explore how developers can learn from negative studies, identify responsive patient populations and generate more informative clinical development strategies for future pain therapeutics.

Key Topics Covered:

- How can developers distinguish true target failure from shortcomings in trial design, patient selection or endpoint strategy?
- What impact do patient heterogeneity, comorbidities, concomitant medications and disease duration have on detecting treatment benefit in pain studies?
- What lessons can be learned from programs that failed to meet endpoints, and how might alternative study designs or stratification approaches have altered outcomes?
- How can biomarkers, responder analyses and subgroup identification help uncover hidden efficacy signals and improve future development decisions?



Emilio Quetglas, Senior Medical Director, Clinical Development, **Tris Pharma**



James Campbell, President & Chief Scientific Officer, **Centrexion**

4:00 **End of Pre-Conference Day**

> "The attendees were true major players in the field from both Industry and academia. The panels were excellent enabling a nice discussion around topics the field are challenged by."
>
> Head of Search & Evaluation Neuroscience, **Novartis**

> "The meeting was a great opportunity to connect with colleagues working in the non-opioid pain space. The **presentations were excellent and very engaging**, particularly the **discussions around novel targets beyond ion channels**"
>
> Senior Scientist, Research, **Xenon Pharmaceuticals**

Conference Day One
Wednesday, January 27

2nd Annual Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit

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8:00 **Check-In, Coffee & Light Breakfast**

8:50 **Chair's Opening Remarks**



Florian Jakob
Head of Drug Discovery Engine
Grünenthal

Defining The Next Era Of Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics

9:00 **One Year of JOURNAVX in Practice: Emerging Real-World Insights from the First Approved NaV1.8 Pain Therapy**

- Review recently published real-world and Phase IV evidence evaluating JOURNAVX use in clinical practice
- Examine emerging data on opioid-sparing outcomes and the evolving role of non-opioid therapies in acute pain management
- Explore prescribing patterns and treatment utilization trends from the growing body of post-launch evidence
- Discuss key considerations for advancing future pain therapies, including remaining challenges around efficacy, access, reimbursement, and demonstrating value beyond opioids



Paul Negulescu
Senior Vice President & Disease Area Executive
Vertex Pharmaceuticals

9:30 **Fireside Chat: Is NaV1.8 the Silver Bullet for Pain, or Does Clinical Success Depend on Matching Mechanism to Pain Biology?**

- Is pain better viewed as a collection of biologically distinct diseases?
- Which pain phenotypes are most likely to benefit from NaV1.8 inhibition?
- Where might alternative mechanisms out perform sodium channel blockade?
- Why do promising assets continue to fail despite compelling target biology?
- How should developers match mechanism, indication and patient population to improve clinical success?



Michael Oshinsky
Director, Office of Preclinical Pain Research
NIH



Ted Price
Professor, Director Center for Advanced Pain Studies
UT Dallas

10:00 **Panel Discussion: Where Are Investors Placing Their Bets Across Pain Therapeutics?**

- Which pain targets, technologies and therapeutic approaches are attracting the greatest investment interest today?
- What data package is required to move a program from scientific promise to an investable opportunity?
- How are investors assessing technical, clinical and commercial risk in an increasingly competitive pain landscape?
- Where do investors see the biggest opportunities and unmet needs shaping the next wave of pain innovation?



Jana Obajdin
Analyst
BGV Ventures



John Dyer
Managing Director
Aquilo



Roman Camarda
Principal
Novo Holdings



Vincent Nadeau
Principal
Bsquared Capital

10:30 **Speed Networking**

A prime chance to make the most of in-person networking and forge new connections as new companies enter, and existing ones broaden their presence within the pain therapeutics space. Designed to maximize your introduction to numerous new individuals and serve as a catalyst for ongoing discussions during the summit.

11:00 **Morning Break & Refreshments**

Conference Day One
Wednesday, January 27

Beyond NaV1.8 What Mechanisms Could Define the Next Generation of Pain Therapies

11:30 **Multi-Omic Endotyping of Chronic Pain: Leveraging Proteomic & Metabolomic Signatures for Biomarker Discovery & Patient Stratification**

- Defining biologically distinct pain endotypes through integrated proteomic and metabolomic profiling
- Identifying molecular pathways associated with pain severity, progression, and treatment response
- Developing translatable biomarkers to improve patient selection and clinical trial design
- Utilizing human multi-omic datasets to inform target identification and therapeutic development



Darrell Henze
Executive Director
Merck & Co.

12:00 **Session Reserved for** mdbiosciences. Neuroscience Discovery Services



Sigal Meilin
Chief Scientific Officer
MD Biosciences

12:30 **Lunch & Networking**

1:30 **Targeting Peripheral α5-GABAa Receptors for Chronic Pain: Translational Evidence & Clinical Proof of Concept**

- Exploring the rationale for selectively modulating peripheral α5-GABAA receptors to alleviate neuropathic pain while minimizing central nervous system adverse effects
- Reviewing Phase 2 clinical results with SR750 in trigeminal neuralgia and implications for broader peripheral neuropathic pain populations
- Evaluating the potential of α5-GABAA receptor modulation as a differentiated non-opioid alternative to current standards of care such as gabapentinoids
- Expanding development across diabetic peripheral neuropathy, post-herpetic neuralgia and other chronic neuropathic pain indications



Shuai Li
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Shanghai SIMR Biotechnology

2:00 **Harnessing Neurotrophin-3 Biology to Address the Drivers of Chronic Pain**

- Exploring the role of neurotrophins, particularly NT-3, in regulating pain signalling, inflammation and chronic pain sensitisation
- Examining the biological rationale for selectively targeting NT-3 to address pain and functional impairment in osteoarthritis
- Reviewing how LEVI-04, an investigational p75NTR-Fc fusion protein, modulates NT-3 signalling and the clinical effects observed in patients with osteoarthritis
- Highlighting findings from a novel pain-evoked endpoint alongside future development plans in osteoarthritis and neuropathic pain indications



Simon Westbrook
Founder & Chief Scientific Officer
Levicept

2:30 **Afternoon Break & Refreshments**

Can We Finally Get Pain Trials Right? Bottlenecks in Clinical Development & How to Fix Them

3:30 **Fireside Chat: Solving the Placebo Problem in Chronic Pain Trials**

- Reduce placebo inflation through protocol design and site management
- Improve patient training and consistency across sites
- Examine crossover and adaptive study designs
- Apply lessons from successful recent programs



Errol Gould
Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs
Tonix Medicines



Luana Colloca
Interim Chair, Pain & Translational Symptom Science
University of Maryland

Conference Day One
Wednesday, January 27

2nd Annual Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit
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4:00 **Managing Benefit Expectations: How Participant Education Mitigates Placebo Response in Chronic Pain Trials**

- Explain how expectations of benefit can influence placebo responses and outcomes in chronic pain trials
- Describe participant-education strategies designed to establish realistic expectations without compromising informed consent or engagement
- Evaluate how expectation-management interventions may improve trial validity, signal detection, and interpretation of treatment effects



Errol Gould
Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs
Tonix Medicines

4:30 **Fireside Chat: Are We Solving the Problems That Matter Most to Patients Living with Chronic Pain?**

- Understand how patients define treatment success through improved function, independence and quality of life, rather than pain reduction alone
- Explore the benefit-risk trade-offs patients are willing to accept in exchange for meaningful improvements in daily living
- Challenge assumptions around what constitutes a clinically meaningful outcome and how these perspectives should influence trial design and regulatory decision-making
- Hear directly from patient advocates and individuals living with chronic pain on what developers should prioritize when designing the next generation of pain therapeutics



Cindy Steinberg
Director Policy & Advocacy
US Pain Foundation

5:15 **Chair's Closing Remarks**



Florian Jakob
Head of Drug Discovery Engine
Grünenthal

5:20 **An Evening of Pain Innovation: Scientific Poster Session & Networking**

With a plethora of diverse and innovative approaches showing promise in the pain field, 30 slots on the speaker faculty simply weren't enough to showcase all the innovation shaping the field today.

The new and improved poster session not only offers you a chance to showcase your work, elevate your name, brand, company name, and poster at the summit, but also access pre-event advertising through our virtual poster hall on the website and brochure, to put your work front and center in a sea of pain innovators, investors, and pharma S&E heads.



Is your work the next thing in pain?

Showcase Your Work:
Present a poster of your work to a room of 150+ decision makers spanning pharma, VC, biotech, and academia

Grow Your Visibility:
Have your face, name, company name, affiliation and poster title featured on brochure, website, and tailored Linkedin banners

Compete to Speak:
Is your work the next best thing in pain? If so, you could **win a highly sought after 30-minute speaking slot in 2028**

Get In-Front of Investors:
Showcase your work in front of VC firms, pharma S&E and BD heads looking to fund the next wave of innovation

NB: We've received an overwhelming amount of interest in poster sessions so far, and limited inventory. If you want to present a poster, please register and submit a poster for review ASAP as places in the poster hall will be made available on a first come, first served basis.

* Terms & conditions apply; we reserve the right to reject based on content shared, capacity, and availability of slots in the poster session. The poster competition is only eligible to the attendees with a drug development pipeline or those affiliated only with an academic institution (service providers to industry may present a poster through partnership, but will not be eligible for the poster competition). For full terms and conditions, please see the **website linked here**.

6:20 **End of Conference Day One**

Conference Day Two
Thursday, January 28

2nd Annual Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit
January 26-28, 2027 | Boston, MA

8:30 **Check-In, Coffee & Light Breakfast**

8:55 **Chair's Opening Remarks**



Florian Jakob
Head of Drug Discovery Engine
Grünenthal

Building on NaV1.8 Success to Pave the Way for the Next Generation of Sodium Ion Channels

9:00 **Onzotrigine - Pharmacology of a Novel NaV1.8 Inhibitor**

- Present compound potency, selectivity and mechanism of action
- Discuss translatable models of Nav1.8 target engagement
- Highlight efficacy in model systems: human DRG neurons and NHP microneurography
- Correlate inhibition of action potential firing with target inhibition levels



Bryan Moyer
Senior Vice President, Discovery
Latigo Bio

9:30 **Panel Discussion: How Will the Next Generation of Sodium Channel Therapies Differentiate in Pain?**

- Following the first approval of a NaV1.8 inhibitor, where do the greatest opportunities for differentiation lie across NaV1.8, NaV1.7, NaV1.9 and other emerging sodium channel targets in acute, chronic and neuropathic pain?
- How should developers balance efficacy, safety, tolerability, tissue selectivity, CNS penetration and dosing convenience when designing next-generation sodium channel therapies?
- Is meaningful improvement now more likely to come through better molecule design, target engagement and patient selection, or through targeting different sodium channel subtypes and pain mechanisms?
- Which pain populations are most likely to benefit from specific sodium channel approaches, and how can developers better match mechanism to underlying disease biology and pain phenotype?



Bryan Moyer
Senior Vice President, Discovery
Latigo Bio



Darrell Henze
Executive Director
Merck & Co.



Florian Jakob
Head of Drug Discovery Engine
Grünenthal



Kavya Gopal
Senior Vice President & Disease Area Executive for Pain
Vertex Pharmaceuticals

10:15 **Poster Competition Winner Announced**



Florian Jakob
Head of Drug Discovery Engine
Grünenthal

10:20 **Morning Break & Refreshments**

Innovations in GLP1s & Monoamine as Novel Biology for Pain Management

11:00 **From Metabolic Health to Pain Relief: Assessing the Role of GLP-1 Therapies in Musculoskeletal Pain**

- Exploring the mechanisms through which GLP-1 therapies may influence pain, inflammation, and physical function
- Examining emerging clinical evidence supporting incretin-based approaches in musculoskeletal disorders
- Applying lessons from recent trials to better evaluate efficacy in pain indications
- Improving assay sensitivity and clinical trial execution to accelerate development of next-generation



John Markman
Vice President, Global Pain
Eli Lilly

11:30 **Advancing Triple Monoamine Reuptake Inhibition as a Novel Non-Opioid Approach for Acute & Chronic Pain**

- Reviewing the development of MAX-001, an optimized nefopam formulation designed to deliver rapid onset and extended analgesia without opioids or NSAIDs
- Exploring how preferential norepinephrine reuptake inhibition may modulate pain signalling across acute and chronic pain settings
- Translating Phase 1 safety and pharmacokinetic findings into future clinical development strategies for acute and chronic pain indications
- Positioning triple monoamine reuptake inhibition within the evolving landscape of next-generation non-opioid analgesics



Shawn Fatholahi
President & Chief Executive Officer
Maxona Pharmaceuticals

Conference Day Two
Thursday, January 28

12:00 **Beyond Inflammation: Uncovering the Direct Role of JAK Signalling in Pain Modulation**

- Evaluating clinical and translational evidence suggesting JAK inhibition may alleviate pain independently of its anti-inflammatory effects
- Exploring how JAK-mediated cytokine signalling influences sensory neuron activity and pain processing across immune-mediated diseases
- Understanding why pain often remains the primary unmet need for patients despite successful suppression of inflammatory biomarkers
- Identifying opportunities to leverage immune-pain biology to develop more effective therapies for inflammatory and non-inflammatory pain conditions



William Housley
Head of Rheumatology Early Discovery (Immunology R&D)
AbbVie

12:30 **Lunch & Networking**

Expanding Directions in Pain with Gene Therapies, Combination Treatments & Learnings from Migraine

1:30 **Epigenetic Gene Regulation of NaV1.7: Reprogramming Pain Signalling for Durable Relief in Chronic Pain**

- Harnessing zinc-finger epigenome regulation technology to selectively downregulate SCN9A, the gene encoding NaV1.7, a genetically validated driver of pain signalling
- Developing NT-Z001 as an AAV-delivered epigenetic therapy designed to provide long-lasting relief from neuropathic and inflammatory pain following a single administration
- Reviewing preclinical evidence demonstrating durable pain reduction without the addiction risks associated with opioids
- Exploring how epigenetic therapies could shift chronic pain treatment from symptom management to long-term modulation of pain biology



Ana Maria Moreno
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Navega Therapeutics

2:00 **Potassium Channels as the Next Major Opportunity in Pain Therapeutics**

- Understanding how Kv7 potassium channel activation reduces neuronal hyperexcitability to suppress pain signalling at its source
- Leveraging lessons from clinically validated Kv7 programs to accelerate development in pain indications
- Understanding the scientific rationale for pairing selective NaV1.7 inhibition with Kv7.2/7.3 activation to more effectively reduce sensory neuron hyperexcitability
- Assessing the long-term potential of Kv7 activators across neuropathic, inflammatory and musculoskeletal pain populations



Chris Kenney
Chief Medical Officer
Xenon Pharmaceuticals

2:30 **Rewiring Maladaptive Pain Circuits: Advancing Psilocin-Based Therapies for Nociplastic Pain**

- Distinguishing nociplastic pain from neuropathic pain and exploring the role of maladaptive neuroplasticity in sustaining chronic pain states
- Reviewing emerging clinical data on psychedelic assisted therapy in fibromyalgia, and IBS , including changes in functional outcomes and pain severity
- Evaluating neuroimaging and electrophysiological evidence, including fMRI and EEG biomarkers, to understand how psilocin may modulate central pain processing
- Discussing the translational path from early clinical findings with oral psilocybin, transitioning to an IV infusion of psilocin (TRP:8803) and meeting with FDA to help develop the regulatory strategy for future development opportunities across chronic pain indications



James Gilligan
President & CSO
Entropy Neurodynamics (formerly Tryp Therapeutics)

Conference Day Two
Thursday, January 28

3:00 **Roundtable Discussion: Learning From Migraine: How Better Biology, Endpoints & Patient Selection Can Improve Success in Pain Drug Development**

- Exploring why migraine has become one of the most successful neuroscience therapeutic areas while many pain programs continue to fail
- Examining how mechanism-driven development, including CGRP and emerging PACAP pathways, transformed clinical success in migraine and reshaped the treatment landscape
- Applying lessons from migraine around patient stratification, endpoint selection and translational biomarkers to improve the probability of success in chronic pain indications
- Identifying which elements of the migraine development playbook can accelerate innovation across neuropathic, musculoskeletal and chronic pain populations

3:30 **Afternoon Break & Refreshments**

Aligning Investment, Policy & Reimbursement to Ensure Access to the Next Generation of Pain Management Therapeutics

4:00 **A New Drug is Only Great If It Reaches Patients: Ensuring Patient Access & Commercial Viability through State and Federal Policy**

- Educating key policymakers about the unmet needs of millions of chronic pain sufferers
- Developing advocacy initiatives that have expanded payer coverage of pain treatment
- Advancing state legislation and regulation that has mandated payer pain management plans and patient access to a broader range of treatment options
- Exploring federal legislation to improve patient access to non-opioid pain treatment in Medicare
- Identifying how drug developers and patient organizations can collaborate to hasten the development of novel pain therapeutics



Cindy Steinberg
Director of Policy & Advocacy
US Pain Foundation

4:30 **Fireside Chat: What Will Pharma Buy Next in Pain?**

- Assess how recent transactions, including Lilly's acquisitions of SiteOne Therapeutics and 4E Therapeutics, and AbbVie's licensing agreement with Haisco Pharmaceutical, are reshaping partnering and investment priorities across pain
- Define the translational, clinical and commercial evidence packages required to progress from early interest to competitive deal activity
- Explore which mechanisms, indications and patient populations are attracting the strongest external interest, from NaV1.8 inhibitors and peripheral targets through to neuroimmune and disease-modifying approaches
- Identify what differentiates a partnerable pain asset today, including target validation, patient selection strategy, clinical positioning and commercial potential

Moderator:



John Dyer
Managing Director
Aquilo

Panelists:



Darrell Henze
Executive Director
Merck & Co.



Peter Borden
Director, Search & Evaluation
AbbVie Ventures



Stephen Zicha
Senior Director, Neuroscience
Eli Lilly

5:15 **Chair's Closing Remarks**



Florian Jakob
Head of Drug Discovery Engine
Grünenthal

5:20 **End of Conference**

2027 Partners

Expertise Partner: MD Biosciences

MD Biosciences Neuro is a translational contract research organization specializing in pain and neurodegenerative disease models, including validated large animal models that support clinical translation. Founded in 1991, MD Biosciences brings more than three decades of preclinical research experience to its dedicated neuroscience practice, partnering with drug developers to generate the non-clinical evidence needed to advance non-opioid analgesics from discovery through IND enabling studies. Alongside client studies, MD Biosciences advances its own pipeline of proprietary assets.

With in house histology, biomarker analysis and electrophysiology, MD Biosciences works as an extension of its clients' teams, designing custom studies in minipigs, domestic pigs, rodents and ex vivo and in vitro platforms that move programs through the development pipeline efficiently. Its 20,000 square foot GLP facility includes dedicated rodent and large animal labs and supports GLP toxicology and FDA submission.

MD Biosciences is accredited by AAALAC International, holds an NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare Foreign Assurance, and is a signatory to the Marseille Declaration.

www.mdbneuro.com

Event Partner: Metrion

Metrion is a specialist preclinical CRO and recognised leader in ion channel electrophysiology and cardiac safety screening, with deep expertise in pain drug discovery. Our scientific leadership team brings over 125 years of combined drug discovery experience, including pioneering research into NaV1.7, NaV1.8 and NaV1.9. We provide high-quality AI-ready data, insightful interpretation, and collaborative scientific support to help pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies advance novel pain therapeutics from target validation through to lead optimisation.

www.metrionbiosciences.com

Hear what Service Providers Enjoyed in 2026:

"Focused community of experts, great networking, quality of the speakers and the talks, size and duration of the event (great for networking)"

Global Pain SME & Business Development Professional, **Transpharmation™**

"Excellent group of speakers, really appreciated the panel discussions"

Chief Scientific Officer, **Nocion Therapeutics, Inc.**

Partner With Us

2nd Annual Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit

January 26-28, 2027 | Boston, MA

Tap Into a Global Network of Pain Drug Developers, Investors & Innovators to Build Strategic Partnerships

Following the JOURNAVX® approval, investors, biotechs and large pharma are re-entering non-opioid pain with renewed conviction, driving a wave of financing, partnering and M&A activity. Landmark deals from Lilly's **multibillion dollar acquisitions** of SiteOne Therapeutics and 4E Therapeutics, alongside AbbVie's licensing agreement with Haisco Pharmaceutical (over $745 million), highlight growing competition to secure the next breakthrough therapy in one of healthcare's largest unmet needs.

But despite renewed investment, pain remains one of drug development's toughest frontiers, with a colossal unmet need of 1.5bn individuals experiencing chronic pain. As innovation expands beyond sodium channels into neuroimmune targets, GLP-1 biology, neurotrophin signaling, potassium channels and gene regulation approaches, developers continue to face persistent challenges around placebo response, patient stratification, translation and clinical success. The **2nd Non-Opioid Pain Therapeutics Summit** brings together 150+ leaders from pharma, biotech, academia, investment and patient advocacy communities seeking the data, partnerships and technologies needed to advance the next generation of non-opioid pain medicines.

Are you ready to place your brand at the center of the non-opioid pain revolution?

Drug Developers are Actively Seeking

Human-Relevant Pain Models

Advanced iPSC-derived sensory neurons, human DRG platforms, organoids and translational assays to improve clinical predictability beyond traditional animal models.

Preclinical CROs & Pain Pharmacology Services

Specialist partners offering *in vitro* and *in vivo* pain models, efficacy studies, translational pharmacology and IND-enabling support for nonopioid pain

Ion Channel Assays & Electrophysiology Platforms

Automated patch clamp, target validation and screening technologies accelerating discovery across NaV, Kv7, CaV and other emerging pain targets.

Biomarker & Target Engagement Technologies

Microneurography, imaging, molecular biomarkers and quantitative tools to demonstrate mechanism engagement, support dose selection and improve clinical translation.

Clinical CROs & Trial Design Expertise

Support with placebo mitigation, patient stratification, endpoint development, site selection and execution of acute, neuropathic and chronic pain studies.

Why Partner?

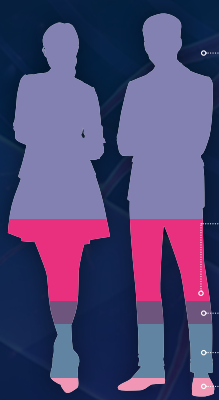
Access an Unmatched Audience: **70% C-Suite, VP & Director-level** attendees from pharma, biotech, investors and academia gaining early access to the audience delegate list

Engage the Companies Driving Pain Innovation: Meet new and established teams advancing NaV1.8, NaV1.7, GLP-1, neuroimmune, neurotrophin and gene regulation programs, alongside investors actively evaluating the next breakthrough therapies

Connect with Buying & Partnering Decision-Makers: Build relationships with leaders responsible for outsourcing, licensing, collaborations, clinical development and vendor selection.

Elevate Your Visibility: Position your organization's expertise through speaking opportunities, KOL panellist positions, exhibition booths, posters positions and bespoke branding packages

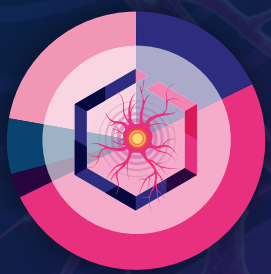
Seniority of Attendees:



- C-Level / VP: 54%
- Director & Head Of: 27%
- Manager & Group Leader: 7%
- Scientist: 3%
- Other: 12%

*Based on the Non-Opioid Pain Summit 2026

Types of Companies Attending:



- Pharma: 18%
- Biotech: 50%
- Investors & Other: 3%
- Academicians: 7%
- Service Providers: 22%

Get in Touch



Jessica Alarms
Partnerships Director
Tel: +1 617 455 4188
Email: sponsor@hansonwade.com

READY TO REGISTER?

3 Easy Ways To Book

www.non-opioid-pain-therapeutics.com/register/

info@hansonwade.com

+1 617 455 4188

3 REASONS TO ATTEND:

Discover: A dedicated two-track workshop day exploring translational pain models, placebo mitigation, target discovery and clinical trial design through interactive, discussion-led deep dives with experts from **NIH**, **Centrexion**, **4E Therapeutics**, **Vertex**, **Tris Pharma**, and more.

Learn From: 25+ world-class speakers spanning pain biology, clinical development, investment and business development from **Eli Lilly**, **AbbVie**, **Merck & Co.**, **Grünenthal**, **Xenon**, **Tonix**, **Latigo Bio**, **Navega Therapeutics**, **Maxona** and other leading organizations.

Build Strategic Connections: 10+ hours of networking with pharma, biotech, investors, patient advocates and solution providers driving the future of pain therapeutics, from next-generation ion channels and GLP-1s to biomarkers, translational science and novel non-opioid mechanisms.

Drug Developer Pricing *	Register & Pay By Friday November 20	On the Door
Conference + Workshop Day	$3347 (Save $550)	$3897
Conference + 1 Workshop	$2898 (Save $450)	$3348
Conference Only	$2449 (Save $350)	$2799

Academic Pricing**	Register & Pay By Friday November 20	On the Door
Conference + Workshop Day	$2747 (Save $550)	$3297
Conference + 1 Workshop	$2398 (Save $450)	$2848
Conference Only	$2049 (Save $350)	$2399

Solution Provider Pricing	Register & Pay By Friday November 20	On the Door
Conference + Workshop Day	$5047 (Save $350)	$5397
Conference Only	$3649 (Save $350)	$3999

*To qualify for the drug developer rate your company must have a public drug pipeline. Please visit the website for full pricing options. To learn about Not-For-Profit rates, please email info@hansonwade.com

** To be eligible for this price, the group or individual must be full-time academic(s).

Multi-Pass Discounts

10% discount 3 passes

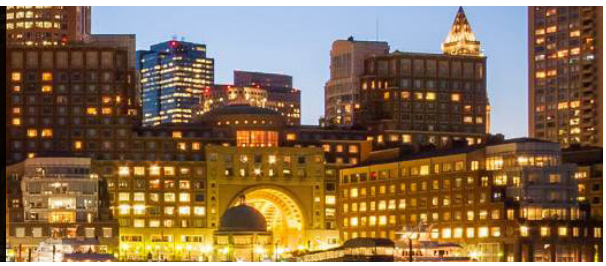
15% discount 4 passes

20% discount 5+ passes

Please note that group discounts are only valid when three or more delegates from one company book and pay at the same time. Only one discount offer may be applied to the current pricing rate.
Contact: register@hansonwade.com

VENUE

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Cancellations must be received in writing. If the cancellation is received more than 14 days before the conference attendees will receive a full credit to a future conference. Cancellations received 14 days or less (including the fourteenth day) prior to the conference will be liable for the full fee. A substitution from the same organization can be made at any time.

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